

REMARKS

The Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the telephone conference with Examiner Frantz and Stashick that took place on September 10, 2007. Attached hereto is a copy of the Examiner's summary of the telephone conference. The Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that the addition to Claim 1 in the Amendment dated September 7, 2007, pertaining to the frustoconical pin cylindrical shoulder having a surface that is roughened in excess of normal or inherent roughness, distinguishes Claim 1 over the art of record.

The supplemental amendment and the remarks herein follow Applicants' amendment dated September 7, 2007 and subsequent Examiner telephone conference.

During the telephone conference, the Examiner noted that the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment refers to a surface 68 on line 12 of page 12, but there is no item 68 identified in the drawings. The Examiner further noted that page 13, line 16 erroneously refers to the same surface as surface 82. On further review, it appears that the surface in question is indicated in Figure 5 as item 78. Therefore, Applicant has amended both page 12, line 12 and page 13, line 16 to identify surface 78. There is no other reference to either surface 68 or surface 78 in the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment.

Additionally, during the telephone conference, the Examiner stated that she does not agree with the previous examiner's finding in the Office Action that Kaiser teaches away from mating shoulders on frustoconical pins and their connectors. However, Kaiser teaches minimizing the diameter of the sucker rods to maximize the area through which fluid may travel. Kaiser, lines 55-62. Specifically, Kaiser states, "Eliminating the need for a torque shoulder would significantly reduce the upset ratio thereby providing more annulus space for a given tubing size or permit the use of smaller tubing for effective fluid production." The inclusion of any type of shoulder in the sucker rod coupling is contrary to this purpose. The Summary

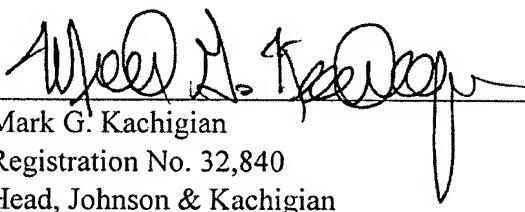
of Invention states that Kaiser's invention "eliminates the need for a torque shoulder." Kaiser, lines 88-89. Therefore, while it does not specifically state in so many words, Kaiser does teach away from mating shoulders on the pins and connectors. This reduces the likelihood that a person with ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine Kaiser with Hori, which has not only one but two sets of mating shoulders.

Furthermore, the tool in Hori is a single piece with a male end and a female end, whereas the coupling in Kaiser is comprised of a separate rods and connectors. This increases the non-obviousness of combining Kaiser and Hori. To the extent that Kaiser allows for a configuration with one male end and one female end, a person combining Kaiser and Hori would use this configuration rather than the separate rod and connector configuration, as Hori does not suggest separate rods and connectors. Thus, the combination of Kaiser and Hori would be configured with one male end and one female end, and would not yield the Applicants' separate rods and connectors.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing is fully responsive to the issues raised by the Examiner during the telephone conference and that the application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If any issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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